

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03676 270557Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 SY-05 DODE-00 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 SCA-01

VO-03 /031 W

----- 019012

R 261547Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2803

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3676

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, SHUM

SUBJECT: NONLICENSING OF FINGERPRINT EQUIPMENT TO SA

REFERENCE: STATE 229016

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL, DCM CALLED ON SAG DEPUTY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS J.VAN DALSEN TO EXPLAIN PROBLEMS RAISED BY SA POLICE INTEREST IN PURCHASING AUTOMATIC FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION EQUIPMENT PRODUCED IN US. NOTING THAT SEVERAL SAG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING TWO SAP OFFICERS, WANTED TO LEAVE THIS EVENING ON VISIT TO US TO SEE DEMONSTRATION BY MANUFACTURER IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK AND TOUR FBI WASHINGTON FACILITIES WHERE SAME OR SIMILAR EQUIPMENT IS USED, DCM EXPLAINED THAT STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN OR WERE IN PROCESS OF BEING TAKEN TO PLACE SUCH NEW EQUIPMENT UNDER VALIDATED LICENSE REQUIREMENT, AND STATED THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES USG CANNOT CONSIDER PERMITTING SALE TO SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE OF SOPHISTICATED FINGERPRINT EQUIPMENT WITH OBVIOUS POTENTIAL FOR ENFORCING PASS LAWS AND OTHER APARTHEID MEASURES, LIKE THE TERRORISM ACT, WHICH AMERICAN PEOPLE REGARD IS REPUGNANT BECAUSE OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE.

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03676 270557Z

2. DCM THEN NOTED THAT WHILE EMBASSY COULD ISSUE VISAS FOR SAG

OFFICIALS, VISIT WOULD SERVE LITTLE PURPOSE IN CIRCUMSTANCES SINCE EXPORT OF EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT BE AUTHORIZED. ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SAP PRESENCE AT MANUFACTURER'S DEMONSTRATION OR FBI COULD COME UNDER PUBLIC SCRUTINY, PROMPTING DIFFICULT QUESTIONS FROM NEWS MEDIA AND OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS, WHICH WOULD NOT BE IN INTEREST OF EITHER USG OR SAG.

3. VAN DALSEN SAID HE ASSUMED FROM WHAT DCM SAID THAT FBI TOUR WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. DCM REPLIED THAT EMBASSY WAS NOT INSTRUCTED ON THIS SPECIFIC POINT BUT NOTED THAT WHILE FBI NORMALLY VERY COOPERATIVE IN ARRANGING TOURS FOR FOREIGN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, VAN DALSEN WOULD APPRECIATE THAT USG WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SUCH A VISIT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. VAN DALSEN UNDERSTOOD.

4. GIVEN URGENCY OF MATTER, VAN DALSEN INDICATED HE WOULD GET WORD TO SAP RIGHT AWAY. EMBASSY HAD ALREADY TIPPED POLICE CONTACTS OFF TO FACT THAT PROBLEM HAD COME UP THAT WOULD BE EXPLAINED TO DFA, AND SAP, THROUGH DFA, ASKED FOR PASSPORTS TO BE RETURNED EARLY THIS AFTERNOON.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO CALL ON DFA, DONALD VAN DYKE, AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WITH "DYNAMIC TECHNOLOGY (PTY) LTD. OF NORWICH UNION HOUSE, QUEEN STREET, PRETORIA," WHO IS APPARENTLY THE LOCAL AGENT FOR CALSPAN AND HAD MADE SEVERAL PREVIOUS INQUIRIES ABOUT VISAS FOR PARTY GOING TO US

, CALLED CONSULAR OFFICER TO SAY THAT WHILE SAP OFFICERS WERE NOT NOW GOING, HE AND THREE BANTU ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, MESSRS. ELS, DUPRE, AND STACY (PHONETIC), WERE STILL LEAVING FOR US THIS EVENING. (ELS AND DUPRE MENTIONED IN LAST PARA OF PRETORIA 3566, HAD ALREADY OBTAINED VISAS IN REGULAR SA PASSPORTS FROM CONGEN JOHANNESBURG.) DCM PROMPTLY CALLED VAN DALSEN TO ALERT HIM OF THESE TRAVEL PLANS, EXPLAINING THAT WHILE OUR INSTRUCTIONS ONLY HAD MENTIONED PROBLEM OF SALES TO POLICE, EMBASSY BELIEVED OTHER OFFICIALS SHOULD REALIZE BEFORE LEAVING THAT SIMILAR LICENSING PROBLEM WAS LIKELY TO ARISE WITH SALES TO CERTAIN OTHER SAG GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AS WELL. VAN DALSEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION AND SAID HE WOULD PASS IT ON.

6. COMMENT: VAN DALSEN, WHO INDICATED AWARENESS OF RECENT EXPRES-
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PAGE 03 PRETOR 03676 270557Z

SIONS OF AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT APARTHEID AND TERRORISM ACT DETENTIONS, ACCEPTED EXPLANATION OF US POSITION ON SALES OF FINGERPRINTING EQUIPMENT WITHOUT COMMENT OR ARGUEMENT, SIMPLY STATING THAT HE WOULD INFORM THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.
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